



PROJECT: Indiana Harbor and Canal Confined Disposal Facility (CDF), East Chicago, Indiana

AUTHORIZATION: Rivers and Harbors Act of 1910, 1930, 1935, 1937 and 1960, WRDA 1986 and 1996

TYPE: Navigation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Because of contaminated sediments on the harbor and canal bottom, the harbor has not been dredged since 1972. For several years a fish advisory has been in effect that advises against eating any fish caught in the Indiana Harbor Canal and Grand Calumet River because of the high levels of contamination. An estimated dredging backlog of 1 million cubic yards of sediments causes pollution of Lake Michigan and deep draft navigation problems. Efforts to find an environmentally acceptable and economically feasible solution to contain the contaminated sediments have been underway since the mid-1970s. Since that time the nation's environmental awareness has increased, as evidenced by, among other events, establishment in 1970 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), which today helps ensure that such contaminated discharges into the harbor and canal no longer continue. However the problem of removing the existing contaminants remains. The current project is a collaborative effort of the public, U.S. EPA Region 5, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, East Chicago Waterway Management District (ECWMD) the non-federal sponsor, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District. It provides for constructing a confined dredged material disposal facility on the former Energy Cooperative Inc. (ECI) site in East Chicago, Indiana, and dredging the entire federal channel to congressionally authorized navigation depths. Dredging by non-federal interests of the berthing and dock areas adjacent to the federal channel is also planned. A member of the community first suggested the idea of utilizing an existing contaminated site for the CDF site, and the former ECI site fits this criterion since soil and groundwater contamination already exist at the site. Along with safely confining the contaminated sediment, the proposed CDF will isolate and contain the on-site contamination in compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The former ECI site offers the added advantage of being located on the canal, making disposal activities accessible from the water where the dredging will occur. Public and private interests will share the responsibility to construct, operate and maintain the CDF, and dredge the harbor and canal.

CURRENT STATUS: The joint EPA-Corps Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) were released for public review and comment October 1995. Comment period ended April 1, 1996. The Final EIS was released for public and agency review October 16, 1998, the comment period ended November 17, 1998 and the Record of Decision was signed February 2, 1999. The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was executed for the project with the East Chicago Waterway Management District by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on August 7, 2000. The design effort for the project is currently underway.

PLANNED WORK, FY01:

- Initiate background air monitoring
- Complete cut-off wall plans and specifications
- Advertise cut-off wall construction contract
- Complete railroad space relocation plans and specifications

PROJECT COST, CDF CONSTRUCTION:

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|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Total Project Cost | \$118,000,000 | (includes RCRA costs) |
| Federal Cost | 61,100,000 | |
| Non-Federal Cost | 56,900,000 | |

BENEFITS: Average annual navigation benefits: \$14,333,000; BCR: 1.2

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: East Chicago Waterway Management District



U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
Chicago District

FACT SHEET

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